However, this field is beyond my story, which is the story of the life of an individual in relation to the events that unrolled before the eyes of his generation. In concluding that story, I would like to return to the problem that has haunted me during our recent travels abroad, the problem of "America's message to the world."

Without using that pompous phrase, we tried to give our listeners in foreign countries our interpretation of what the United States had contributed to human civilization, in terms not of technical gadgets but of human values. We realize, however, that our concept of the United States differs from the official picture of Uncle Sam. In our trips we met American economists and foreign service officers who were convinced that the United States' message to the world is private enterprise, free from government intervention. We met American businessmen who lauded their dream of America with all its achievements—cars, refrigerators, color TV, movies, electrical appliances, air conditioners—but deplored its "evils"—the "confiscatory" profits tax, progressive income tax, big labor unions, public utilities policies of the federal and state governments, and "creeping socialism" in the guise of social welfare. We also found that the literature distributed by the U.S. Information Agency contained too many boasts about our economic progress and not enough tribute to the human values of our civilization. Most of all, we missed in this literature the awareness that democracy is not a program but a dream, a search for improvement and higher standards of justice, a process that can never end.

Without quarreling with the official portrait of Uncle Sam, we tried to depict the United States as we see it: a hard-working people with a deep respect for their fellow men; opportunity for all; little admiration for hereditary wealth but a profound esteem for individual success and—to some degree—for individual effort even when it has not been crowned with conspicuous success. We spoke of the United States as a community of free people who have learned through experience to work together and trust one another. We stressed that the rich in our country do not live in greater luxury than the rich in poorer countries, but that the great difference is in the conditions of life for the masses. We explained that our mass production is based on mass consumption, on the availability of a broad domestic market that is an aspect of our democratic society.

Perhaps the American civilization we were describing, without concealing our affection for it, lacks the refinement of more stratified societies. Perhaps, also, ours is a slightly idealized vision of America. But the world people believe in is always a compound of reality and their dreams, and little would be left of reality if it were stripped of what man believes it to be.

A few words more on my own behalf. If this apperception of the